**Golden Quadrilateral Project**

*52. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rs. 34,300 crores Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project linking the four metros and other major cities across thirteen States is likely to be delayed by a year;

(b) if so, the details of progress of work that has been done, so far; and

(c) the amount of money spent so far and by when the pending work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The approved cost of the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) Project is Rs. 25,055 crores (at 1999 prices). A sum of Rs. 20,115 crores has been spent up to 31st January 2005. The Project is likely to be substantially completed by December 2005. The status of the Project as on 31st January 2005 is as under:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Total Length | : | 5846 kms |
| Completed | : | 4480 kms |
| Under implementation | : | 1366 kms |

**Rates of minimum wages**

*†53. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are different rates of wages for different types of work in the country;

(b) if so, the rate of minimum wages during 2003-04 in the country indicating the areas and nature of work for which the minimum wages are paid;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap in rates of wages being paid on the country; and

(d) if so, the rates of maximum wages in country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYEMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the rates of minimum wages during 2003-04 among different Scheduled employments for unskilled workers in Central and State Spheres, as notified by the appropriate governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is given in the Annexure [see Appendix 2004, Annexure No.1]

(c) Yes, Sir. Disparity in rates of minimum wages in various regions of the country is due to differences in socio-economic and agro-climatic conditions, prices of essential commodities, prevailing wage rates, availability of labour force, paying capacity, productivity and other local conditions.

(d) A statement giving information about the maximum level of the minimum wages is enclosed.

***Statement***

*Maximum level of minimum wages among scheduled employments in Central and State spheres during 2003-04*

| S No. | State/Union Territory Administration | Name of the Scheduled Employment | Maximum level of minimum wages per day (in Rupees) |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| 1. | Central Sphere | Agriculture | 101.32 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | Distilleries and Breweries | 96.38 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | Agriculture, dairy farming poultry, bee keeping etc. | 42.11 |
| 4. | Assam | Carpentry and Masonry | 63.00 |
| 5. | Bihar | Aluminium Industry | 64.62 |

| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | Agarbati Industry | 79.13 |
| 7. | Goa | Agriculture | 94.00 |
| 8. | Gujarat | Loading & Unloading in Docks and Ports | 99.20 |
| 9. | Haryana | Agriculture | 85.53 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | Single Rate | 65.00 |
| 11. | Jammu & Kashmir | -do- | 45.00 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | Aluminium Industry | 64.73 |
| 13. | Karnataka | Textile (Silk) Industry | 91.50 |
| 14. | Kerala | Minor Ports | 151.47 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | Agarbati Industry | 82.58 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | Straw Board & Paper Board | 161.58 |
| 17. | Manipur | Employment in Agriculture | 66.00 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | Single Rate | 50.00 |
| 19. | Mizoram | Agriculture Worker | 84.00 |
| 20. | Nagaland | Single Rate | 50.00 |
| 21. | Orissa | -do- | 52.50 |
| 22. | Punjab | -do- | 82.65 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | Glass and Cinaware Industries | 70.65 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | Neera Tapping | 125.20 |
| 25. | Tripura | Construction or maintenance of Roads or Building Operations | 53.00 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | Straw Board & Paper Board | 110.27 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | Straw Board and Paper Board Manufactory | 106.31 |
| 28. | West Bengal | Public Motor Transport | 203.86 |
| 29. | Andaman & Nicobar | Agriculture | 124.42 |
| 30 | Chandigarh | Single Rate | 100.00 |
| 31. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | Poultry Unit Poultry Food manufacturing unit, Fertiliser manufacturing unit or any other Agro Based unit. | 60.00 |

| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 32. | Daman & Diu | Employment in automobile repairing workshops and garages | 60.00 |
| 33. | Delhi | Single Rate | 110.10 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | -do- | 52.00 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | Agriculture | 100.00 |

Note:- Minimum Wages Act has been extended *w.e.f.* 1.10.2004 in Sikkim.

**Postponement of SAARC Summit**

*54. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind postponment of recent SAARC Summit in Bangladesh;

(b) whether India's position in the postponement of Summit was at variance with other Member countries, including the host country;

(c) if so, what has been India's reaction to the position of other member countries;

(d) whether Government have any strategy to utilize SAARC forum to strengthen democracy and bring about regional peace and prosperity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) India formally communicated to the Government of Bangladesh that it would not be able to attend the SAARC Summit in Dhaka on the scheduled dates of 6-7 February, 2005. This decision was taken against the background of recent developments in our neighbourhood, which had caused us grave concern, as well as the deterioration in the security situation in Dhaka following the fatal attack on the former Finance Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria. In our assessment, it is only in an environment free from political turmoil and violence that a Summit would yield the desired outcome.

(b) Yes, Sir.